

Strike, TV ban leave couch-potato fans in the dark

TOM DAY



Sportswriter

"It's 3rd down and 10 on the 46-yard line. The Aggies must convert to stay alive. The ball's snapped and Pullig drops back to pass ... he's looking ... looking ... fires over the middle and complete to Mitchell at the 28! He breaks a tackle ... still on his feet ... he breaks free to the 20 ... he's to the ten ... the five ... TOUCHDOWN, AGGIES!!!!!"

These are the thrilling sounds and emotions of a new season that sports fans from around the country live to feel and experience at this time of year.

With the end of the sweltering dog days of August comes the dawn of a new fall season. The start of classes, cooler temperatures and Aggie Yell Practices replace vacations and days at the beach. Baseball pennant races and the start of the college and pro football seasons replace two-a-days and boring pre-season games. These days are easily the most exciting time of the year for the average sports fan.

However, this fall promises to be a different story for Aggie sports fans. Between the current Major League Baseball strike and the television ban on Aggie football games, the fall sports season might not pack the punch of previous years.

If you're optimistic and think that there is still baseball to be played, you might want to reconsider your thinking. On Friday acting baseball commissioner, Bud Selig, shredded the hopes of fans everywhere by threatening to cancel the season. Unless the owners and players reach an agreement within a week, he announced, the season will be officially over. Based on the proceedings thus far, an agreement is not likely.

Selig's words pour salt on the wounds of baseball fanatics such as

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Lady Ags sweep tournament in Plano

Talent, not youth, took over as Texas A&M's women's soccer team started the season with a two-game sweep in their Labor Day Weekend Tournament in Plano.

The Aggies proved to be overpowering in their two wins over Centenary and the University of New Mexico, dominating the statistical columns in both games. The Aggies rolled through the two games, outscoring their opponents by a combined score of 7-1 and outshooting their opponents 26-11.

The attack came quickly in Saturday's 4-1 win over Centenary as A&M scored three times in the first 12 minutes, two coming from Junior midfielder Corie Hammers.

"I was really impressed with the way the team came out," head coach Gerald Guerrieri said. "The intensity that our girls showed in the first 15 minutes of the game was as good as we've shown in any of our training sessions."

Sunday's 3-0 win over New Mexico showed the firepower again as sophomore midfielder Kristen Koop scored twice in the last five minutes to seal the win.

"Kristen Koop showed a little bit of the explosiveness

of her game," Guerrieri said. "She showed that she has the ability to break the game open in the snap of a finger."

The Aggies also won the battles away from the net, allowing them to keep the ball in their opponents' half of the field. On the sloppy playing fields drenched by heavy North Texas' showers, A&M's physical game shut down and roughed up Centenary and New Mexico. This aggressiveness, exemplified by A&M's 40 fouls in the two games, allowed them to control the tempo of the game.

"We're an aggressive, hard-hitting team," Guerrieri said. "Most fouls committed were due to our players playing hard and going in hard for balls."

The Aggies, playing in their second year at the NCAA level, hope to build from their inaugural season where the team went 15-3-1. The building process is starting with a strong influx of young, talented players. Sophomore forward Tina Robinson and freshman midfielder Sonia Ibanez combined with Koop to score four of the Aggies seven

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Carrie Thompson/ THE BATTALION

Sophomore midfielder Kim Duda attempts a corner kick.

Montana prepares to face 49ers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Sorry Joe, we just don't believe you.

This isn't just another game on Sunday, no matter how much of a Montana protest you put up.

Montana, who looked as sharp as he ever has in passing for 315 yards in the Kansas City Chiefs' opening victory at New Orleans on Sunday, next plays the team he took to the Super Bowl four times.

The 49ers, who played on Monday night, are coming to Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

"I don't know about any buildup," Montana said Monday as the Chiefs made him available to the national media.

The conference call was designed to protect Montana from a week of questions for what is, after all, just another game.

"Being realistic about it, of course I want to win the game as bad as they want to win it," Montana said as he was pressed to say how much he wanted to beat his old team. "(Coach) Marty (Schottenheimer) has put it in perspective. It's one of 16 games on the schedule. I haven't seen a team in a long time go undefeated and win the Super Bowl."

Maybe J.J. Birden, who has developed into one of Montana's favorite receivers, can offer a little perspective. Birden was getting himself so pumped up about the 49ers game that he had to sit down and talk to

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Unseeded Agassi heads for quarterfinals

Defeats No. 6 Chang in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — This was the Andre Agassi who won Wimbledon, the one who once threatened to rule tennis, the one U.S. Open fans have been waiting to see ever since Pete Sampras blew him out in the final here four years ago.

For one nearly perfect set at the start, another at the end, and three grueling sets in the middle, Agassi put on a show Monday that rivaled the best matches of his career as he beat No. 6 Michael Chang 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals.

Agassi, unseeded at the Open for the first time since 1987, knew he was playing well before this match but realized

"you don't really know that for sure until you are pushed" the way he was against Chang.

"And to get through it is everything to me," he said. "It allows me to believe that I can win the tournament."

He said his new approach to the game was paying off.

"This is the best I have ever hit the tennis ball, absolutely," he said. "I have hit the ball pretty good before, but it was not balanced with that competitive spirit, not balanced with that focused concentration."

Another unseeded player, Bernd Karbacher, also made the quarters with a 6-

2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Gianluca Pozzi.

Reaching the quarters in the women's draw were No. 1 Steffi Graf, No. 4 Mary Pierce, No. 7 Jana Novotna and No. 11 Amanda Coetzer.

Graf had the toughest opponent but an easy time beating Zina Garrison-Jackson 6-1, 6-2 to set up a match against Coetzer, a 6-3, 6-0 winner against Mana Endo.

"I felt happy to be able to play like that, really," Graf said. "It is not the easiest conditions out there with the wind, and to be able to adjust perfectly to it, I think that is all I wanted."

Pierce beat Iva Majoli 6-1, 6-2 and will next play Novotna, a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Magdalena Maleeva.

AGGIE FACT

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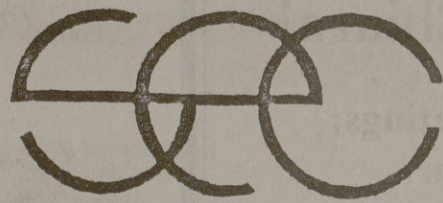
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